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FARM WOMEN'S FORUM TO FOCUS ON ENERGY, ECONOMICS, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

WASHINGTON, May 16—"The Three Big E's for the 1990s: Energy, Economics, & Environment" is the theme for the annual Farm Women's Forum, to be held here June 13-14. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is coordinating the event, which is open to any interested persons.

Farm women from around the country—many of whom hold leadership positions in their farm and community organizations—will attend the forum.

"Women play a significant role in American farming and agribusiness," said Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan, who is scheduled to address the group on June 13.

In addition to Madigan, the two-day event will feature Assistant Secretary for Economics Bruce Gardner, who will discuss energy, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economics Daniel Sumner, who will examine economic issues. Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment James Moseley also will address the group and focus his remarks on environmental policies.

Deputy Under Secretary for International Affairs and Commodity Programs Ann Veneman will provide an international perspective on this year's theme. Forum attendees also will receive a briefing at the White House.

"We'll all be talking about the subjects farm women told us were most important to them—energy, economics, and the environment," Madigan said. "They want the latest information on these issues, and they want to know how these issues will affect farming and agribusiness."

Registration information for the 1991 Farm Women's Forum is available from USDA's Office of Public Liaison, telephone (202) 447-2798.

Sally Katt (202) 382-9435

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, May 16—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, May 17, through midnight Thursday, May 23.

Since the adjusted world price (AWP) is above the 1989 and 1990 crop base quality loan rates of 50.00 and 50.27 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rates for the 1989 and 1990 crops of upland cotton during this period are equal to the respective loan rates for the specific quality and location plus any applicable interest and charges.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates. Because the AWP in effect is above the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments are not available for 1990-crop upland cotton sold during this period.

This period represents Week 5 of the 6-week transition period from using current shipment prices to using forward shipment prices in the AWP calculation. The procedure was adopted to avoid a dramatic change in the AWP that could occur with no transition period, due to differences between new and old crop price quotes.

For Week 5, the Northern Europe price = (Northern Europe current price) + $(2 \times \text{Northern Europe forward price})/3$. Similarly, the Northern Europe coarse count price = (Northern Europe coarse count current price) + $(2 \times \text{Northern Europe coarse count forward price}) / 3$.

Based on data for the week ending May 16, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price	
Northern Europe Price	82.56
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location	14.25
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	2.15
Average U.S. location	0.35
Sum of Adjustments	<u>-16.75</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	65.81 cents/lb.
Coarse Count Adjustment	
Northern Europe Price	82.56
Northern Europe Coarse Count Price	<u>-78.28</u>
	4.28
Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton	<u>-4.10</u>
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	0.18 cents/lb.

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on Thursday, May 23.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

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CHEAPER SOY MEAL GROWS BIGGER SHRIMP, USDA RESEARCHERS FIND

CHICAGO—In feed trials, shrimp revealed a secret that should please U.S. soybean growers as well as shrimp farmers in Asia, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists.

During tests with six different soy-based feed pellets, shrimp unexpectedly put on between 4 and 22 percent more weight with the cheapest, least processed commercial soy meal formula, said chemist David J. Sessa of USDA’s Agricultural Research Service.

The findings potentially could increase sales of U.S. soybean meal as a low-cost ingredient for aquaculture feeds, partially replacing more expensive feed ingredients, said Sessa, a keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the American Oil Chemists’ Society held in Chicago this week.

“Since feed is the biggest expense for shrimp farmers, they will likely

snap up any new, less costly feed that keeps their shrimp healthy and fast-growing,” Sessa said.

Sessa works at the ARS National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research in Peoria, Ill.

Sessa conducted his 10-week tests in Hawaii with Chhorn E. Lim, research biologist and leader of the ARS Tropical Aquaculture Research Unit, Kaneohe, Hawaii, and with The Oceanic Institute, a non-profit research organization at Waimanalo, Hawaii.

Some high-quality shrimp feeds are made with expensive protein from sources such as squid, fish or shrimpheads, and may also contain soy meal. The test feed pellets were 28 percent soy meal, said Sessa.

If aquaculture feedmills in Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia and India were to use soy at that rate, the market for processed soy meal for aquaculture feeds in those countries might reach \$40 million by 1994.

That’s according to a projection from Keith J. Smith, director of research at the American Soybean Association, St. Louis.

“Our projection,” Smith said, “is based on milling of 1.4 million tons of aquaculture feeds in these countries by 1994, compared to 389,000 tons in 1989. As far as we know, very little soy is used in those feeds right now. They are using fish meal or other marine meals.”

Sessa said the least-processed soy meal may cost as little as 12 cents a pound. A premium marine protein such as squid meal may sell for 65 cents or more.

In Hawaii, Lim blended the meal with vitamins, minerals, fats and other standard ingredients then shaped them into quarter-inch-long pellets. He fed the pellets to hundreds of *Penaeus vannamei* shrimp, a popular saltwater variety, and analyzed the young animals’ growth.

In soy-based animal feeds—and many soy foods such as tofu and soy sauce—the soy must be treated with heat or chemicals to inactivate natural compounds called trypsin inhibitors. These inhibitors can block digestion of soy protein.

“We expected the inhibitors to have the same effect in shrimp,” said Sessa. “But instead, the shrimp actually grew bigger than on more highly processed meal that contained almost no inhibitors.”

Shrimp weighed about one gram at the start of the study. The variety is marketed when it reaches about 15 grams or more.

Marcia Wood (415) 559-6070

Issued: May 17, 1991

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USDA ANNOUNCES CHANGES IN CCC HONEY PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON, May 17—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced provisions for producer participation in the honey price support program for the 1991 and subsequent crops.

Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, said the interim rule on the honey price support program published in the March 7 Federal Register has been adopted as the final rule, with these exceptions:

—To be eligible for a price support loan or loan deficiency payment, a producer must maintain "beneficial interest" in the honey. However, the producer must retain title and risk of loss in the honey until it is sold or until the CCC acquires title to the honey pledged as collateral for the loan. The final rule specifies certain conditions under which a producer may enter into a contract to sell the honey and still retain price support eligibility.

—An additional disbursement may be made on up to 100 percent of the quantity of honey as long as the number of containers sold and supported by disposition evidence is the same number of containers initially certified for the loan or loan deficiency payment.

—CCC shall determine and announce the honey marketing loan repayment level on a monthly basis.

Robert Feist (202) 447-6789

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1991 ATWATER LECTURER TO EXPLAIN "WHY CALORIES COUNT"

WASHINGTON, May 20—Nutrition scientist R. Gaurth Hansen, a long-time advocate of clear consumer information on how to eat a balanced diet, will deliver the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 23rd W.O. Atwater Memorial Lecture June 2 in Dallas, Texas.

Hansen will speak there at the annual meeting of the Institute of Food Scientists, said R. Dean Plowman, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, which sponsors the lecture series. The series recognizes scientists who have made unique contributions to nutrition and

food science, and is named for Wilbur Olin Atwater (1844-1907), USDA's first chief of nutrition investigations.

Hansen's lecture, "Why Calories Count," will focus on how professionals can help the public evaluate the quality of their diets based on nutrient density, Plowman said.

"Dr. Hansen's nutrient density concept expresses the relative value of foods and diets in a way consumers can understand," Plowman said. It is based on the protein, carbohydrates, fat, vitamins and minerals contained in 1,000 calories rather than 100 grams.

Hansen is distinguished provost emeritus and distinguished professor emeritus of nutrition, food sciences and biochemistry at Utah State University, Logan. He is internationally recognized for his contributions in evaluating the nutritional quality of foods in the United States and abroad.

Hansen joined Utah State in 1968 as both provost and professor until his retirement in 1986. During 1980-82, he also directed USDA's Nutrition and Education Information Program on a half-time basis.

He has chaired and served on scientific advisory boards for USDA as well as the U.S. Public Health Service, the Agency for International Development, the Department of Defense and the National Research Council's Food and Nutrition Board. He also has been a technical advisor to the American Institute of Baking and currently chairs the nutrition research committee for the National Livestock and Meat Board.

As a consultant to the U.S. Public Health Service in the 1950's and 60's, Hansen served on a team to establish laboratories and review the health and nutrition status in developing countries on three continents. In the 1980's, he was a primary organizer of the International Network of Food Data Systems—INFOODS.

He received his B.S. in chemistry and his M.S. and Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin. He became assistant professor of biochemistry at the University of Utah, 1948-50, and associate professor and professor of biochemistry at the University of Illinois, 1950-57.

From 1957 to 1968, he was chairman of the department of biochemistry at Michigan State University, where he built a program in nutritional biochemistry, including a new facility for teaching and research.

Among his honors, he has received the Conrad A. Elvehjem Award for Public Service in Nutrition and the Borden Award of the American Institute of Nutrition.

Bruce Schwartz (301) 344-4095

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AG IN THE CLASSROOM CELEBRATES TENTH ANNIVERSARY

WASHINGTON—In city school playgrounds students' eyes are widening in wonder as they meet farm animals, many for the first time. At state fairs, thousands of school children are doing more than enjoying the midway rides and eating cotton candy.

Through the efforts of participants of Ag in the Classroom, a national agricultural literacy project coordinated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, students are learning more about the world of agriculture.

The tenth anniversary conference of Ag in the Classroom will be held here June 8 - 11. Educators and people in agriculture and government from throughout the United States and Canada will meet to share ideas and instructional materials, and to discuss issues facing agriculture and education.

Through Ag in the Classroom workshops and in-service training, teachers learn how to integrate agriculture into the subjects they teach.

In addition, participants of Ag in the Classroom plan special events such as the one held each year at the playgrounds of San Francisco's inner-city schools. Here, students learn about farmers and get to see and touch real farm animals, said Shirley Traxler, director of Ag in the Classroom at USDA.

In New York, suburban, inner-city, and rural children learn about New York's apple, horticulture, and dairy industries while improving their map reading and geography skills.

In Kansas, Virginia, and South Dakota, thousands of school children who attend state fairs learn through an "ag-citing" experience that takes them on a treasure hunt through the exhibits that challenge their powers of observation to find answers to questions about agriculture.

"The aim is not to teach kids how to become farmers or ranchers," said Traxler, "but rather to help them understand the role and importance of agriculture in today's economy and society."

“Agriculture can liven any classroom, no matter what the subject,” says Traxler, “but it works especially well with the basics—math, science, geography, history, and language arts.”

There is an Ag in the Classroom program in every state, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Micronesia and Puerto Rico. Thousands of teachers and millions of students have been reached through this effort.

Shirley Traxler (202) 447-5727

Issued: May 20, 1991

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USDA SEEKS COMMENT ON PROPOSED LIME PROMOTION AND RESEARCH ORDER

WASHINGTON, May 20—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking comments on a proposal for an “order,” or set of implementing regulations, to establish the promotion and research program for limes. The program is authorized by the Lime Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, part of the 1990 Farm Bill.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service, said the proposal, furnished by an individual representing lime producers, asks that the program be administered by a board of seven lime producers, three lime importers, and a member representing the public.

The representatives would be appointed by the secretary of agriculture from nominees submitted by the lime industry, as in existing research and promotion programs for other agricultural commodities.

A mandatory assessment of a maximum of one cent per pound on domestic or imported limes sold in the United States would fund the program. Producers or importers of less than 35,000 pounds of limes per year would be exempted from the program.

Haley said the proposal was the only one received in response to USDA’s request for proposals appearing in the Jan. 30 Federal Register, and announced in a Jan. 29 USDA news release.

The proposal will appear in the May 21 Federal Register. Comments, in triplicate, should be sent by June 20 to the Docket AMS, USDA, rm. 2525-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. Copies of the

proposal and additional information are available from Jim Wendland at that address, telephone (202) 475-3916.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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GENETICALLY ENGINEERED POTATOES MAY OUTPERFORM COMMON SPUDS

WASHINGTON—Potatoes that boast genes borrowed from chicken eggs or moths might shrug off hazards that can ruin ordinary spuds, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist said today.

Potatoes with new genes—designed to give the crop resistance to damaging effects of bruising, bacterial rots or herbicides—are being planted outdoors in four states this spring, said William R. Belknap of the Agricultural Research Service. This is the first outdoor test that most of the genes face, he added.

Plans call for eight different genes to be tested by ARS and university researchers at one or more of five test sites, said Belknap, who is coordinating the tests. The sites—up to an acre and a half each—are in Idaho, North Dakota, Minnesota and Maine. Some 7,000 experimental potatoes, averaging about a half-ounce each, are being readied for the tests.

“These potatoes could be forerunners of future commercial varieties with less disease damage and better storage and processing qualities for foodmakers and consumers,” said Belknap, a plant physiologist at ARS’ Western Regional Research Center, Albany, Calif. The researchers have so far received planting permits for five of the eight genes from USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and approval from state authorities. One requirement is that the tests have no significant impact on the environment.

Some of the tubers contain a bacteria-fighting gene found in chicken eggs. “Inside the egg,” Belknap explained, “this gene protects embryos from infection until the chicks develop their own immune system. We want to see if the same gene can help potatoes ward off two bacterial rots—soft rot and ring rot.” These rots can lead to millions of dollars worth of losses each year, said Belknap.

In addition to the chicken gene, other genes that will be tested at plots in or near Aberdeen, Idaho; Prosper and Grand Forks, N.D.; Glyndon, Minn.; and Presque Isle, Maine, include:

—Two different versions of a bacteria-fighting gene from the giant silk moth. These genes may protect potatoes from ring rot and soft rot by enabling spuds to make a protein called cecropin. In the silk moth and other insects, cecropin fights bacterial infection.

—A gene taken from the greater wax moth in an inventive plan to reduce damage to spuds from harvest-time bruising. The gene enables the moth larva to store large amounts of a protein rich in tyrosine, one of 20 amino acids in all proteins. Scientists already know that bruising can cause blackening under a potato's skin when large amounts of tyrosine are available. They want the test to show whether the moth genes will tie up enough tyrosine to prevent blackening. Four other genes will be tested only at the Idaho site:

—Two “marker” genes that, though not useful to potatoes, help scientists easily determine whether their gene-insertion methods have succeeded. Planting permits for these genes are pending.

—Genes from two soil bacteria that may give potatoes resistance to one or another of two herbicides. Plants holding genes from one of the bacteria have already been approved for planting. If the herbicideresistance genes pass all the tests they face in coming years, Idaho potato growers may eventually get new, badly needed weapons to fight weeds such as hairy nightshade or pigweed, according to Charlotte E. Eberlein of the University of Idaho. She will conduct tests in plots at the university's Research and Extension Center in Aberdeen.

For the experiments, Belknap and co-researchers put new genes into Russet Burbank potatoes—America's most widely planted variety—and a Russet Burbank relative, Lemhi Russet. They also engineered two other commercial types, Atlantic and Katahdin, and an experimental variety owned by Frito-Lay, a major processor of potato chips and other snack foods.

Researchers first inserted the new genes in harmless bacteria. They then sliced small, laboratory-reared potatoes called microtubers into thin disks. After the disks were coated with the bacteria, some of the shoots that later emerged had the new genes from the bacteria working inside. The shoots formed new plants that yielded seed potatoes for the tests.

At each site, scientists' actions to ensure that the new genes stay within the test plots will include destroying potato vines after harvest.

In addition to Belknap and Eberlein, others working on the experiments include:

—Michael E. Vayda, University of Maine, Orono. Vayda inserted chicken and moth genes into the Katahdin and Frito-Lay potato varieties and coordinated production of about 1,500 seed tubers for the outdoor tests.

—Alvin F. Reeves of the University of Maine's Aroostook Farm near Presque Isle. Reeves has responsibility for planting, harvesting and analyzing tubers from test plots in Presque Isle.

—Gary A. Secor, North Dakota State University, Fargo. He will check potatoes for ring rot resistance and will coordinate tests at two sites in North Dakota and one in Minnesota. The North Dakota plots are at a research farm owned by the Red River Valley Potato Growers Association three miles south of Grand Forks, and North Dakota State University's research farm four miles northwest of Prosper. The Minnesota site is a potato farm owned by R.D. Offutt Potato Company about seven miles north of Glyndon.

—ARS scientists Dennis L. Corsini and Joseph J. Pavsek, Aberdeen, Idaho. They will examine yield, size and appearance of potatoes with chicken, moth and marker genes tested in Aberdeen. Aberdeen plots with potatoes containing herbicide-resistance genes will be monitored by Eberlein, University of Idaho researcher.

Marcia Wood (415) 559-6070

Issued: May 21, 1991

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, May 21—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture John B. Campbell today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 9.63 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 8.64 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 8.65 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.81 cents per pound.

The prices announced today reflect adjustments in domestic byproduct and world milled rice prices.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$5.90 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$5.32 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$5.24 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EDT. The next scheduled announcement will be made May 28 at 3 p.m. EDT, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-7923

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MOHAIR PROMOTION REFERENDUM SET FOR JUNE 17-28

WASHINGTON, May 22—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has scheduled a referendum June 17-28 for mohair producers to decide whether to continue a market promotion and improvement program.

The proposed program is similar to one approved in 1986. The new program would continue to authorize deductions from producer price support payments.

If the referendum is approved by a majority of the producers voting, or by a majority of the total volume of production represented in the referendum, deductions from mohair price support payments would be at a rate of up to 4-1/2 cents per pound for marketing years 1991 through 1995.

The deductions will be used by the Mohair Council of America to finance advertising and sales promotion programs for mohair and Angora goats in domestic and foreign markets, and for information programs for producers on production management and market improvement.

USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service county offices will distribute ballots in early June. Completed ballots must be returned in person to the county office or postmarked by the June 28 deadline.

To be eligible to vote, a person must have owned Angora goats six months old or older for at least 30 consecutive days in 1990. A cooperative may vote for its members but, if it does so, its members then are ineligible to vote for themselves.

In the 1986 referendum, 82.2 percent of the producers approved the program.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-8206

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